

PCT/EP2004/051412 filed July 8, 2004

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Before claim 1, change ~~CLAIMS~~ to WE CLAIM:

Cancel claims 1-23 without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein and substitute new claims 24-47 thereof:

Claims 1-23 (cancelled)

24. (new) Handle of a screwdriver, the handle comprising a first handle part, a second handle part, and a storage chamber for screwdriver bits or the like, the storage chamber being displaceable within the handle from a closed position into an open position by axial displacement of the two handle parts (1, 2) with respect to one another, the first handle part (1) having a core (4), which is disposed in a cavity (3) in the second handle part (2), and the two handle parts (1, 2) being held in the closed position of the storage chamber (6) by latching means (5, 7), wherein the latching means (5, 7) is movable out of its latching position by pressure on an actuating zone (8) associated with an end side of the handle (2).

25. (new) Handle according to claim 24, wherein the actuating zone (8) is formed by a push-button fitted in a cutout (26) in the end side of the handle (2).

26. (new) Handle according to claim 25, wherein the push-button (8) is displaceable into a pot-shaped cutout (26) counter to the force of a restoring spring (27).

27. (new) Handle according to claim 25, wherein in the event of pressure on the push-button (8), the latching position is only eliminated when the end face of the push-button (8) is located below an opening edge (28) of a cutout (26).

28. (new) Handle according to claim 25, wherein the latching means (5) is a pivotable spring tongue which has a latching projection (9) at its free end and interacts with a latching step (7).

29. (new) Handle according to claim 28, wherein the spring tongue (5) is formed integrally with the material of the core (4).

30. (new) Handle according to claim 28, wherein the spring tongue (5) is formed by an end portion of the core (4).

31. (new) Handle according to claim 24, wherein said latching means is one of a plurality of latching means (5) located diametrically opposite one another.

32. (new) Handle according to claim 28, wherein an actuating cam (29) is formed by the push-button (8) and acts on the spring tongue (5) in order to cancel the latching position.

33. (new) Handle according to claim 32, wherein the actuating cam (29) acts in the axial direction on a control slope (30) of the spring tongue (5), which likewise extends in the axial direction.

34. (new) Handle according to claim 24, wherein the two handle parts (1, 2) are displaced from the closed position into the open position by the force of a prestressed spring (16) following pressure on the actuating zone (8).

35. (new) Handle of a screwdriver, the handle comprising a first handle part, a second handle part, and a storage chamber for screwdriver bits or the like, the storage chamber being openable by axial displacement of the two handle parts (1, 2) with respect to one another, the first handle part (1) having a core (4) which is disposed in a cavity (3) in the second handle part (2) and has at least one latching means (5),

which latching means (5), in a closed position of the storage chamber (6), interacts with a mating catch (7) of the second handle part (2) that includes the cavity, wherein the latching means (5) leaves its latching position of its own accord as a result of pressure on an actuating zone (8) of the first handle part (1) which includes the mating catch (7).

36. (new) Handle according to claim 35, wherein the mating catch (7) is a latching step.

37. (new) Handle according to claim 35, wherein the actuating zone (8) is associated with the second handle part (2) which includes the cavity (3), and the latching means is a pivotable spring tongue which has a latching projection (9) at its free end and is formed integrally with the material of the core (4).

38. (new) Handle according to claim 37, wherein the spring tongue (5) is formed by a wall portion (10) of a wall of a compartment for receiving a screwdriver bit (11).

39. (new) Handle according to claim 35, wherein the latching means is one of two latching means (5) located diametrically opposite one another.

40. (new) Handle according to claim 35, wherein the actuating zone is formed by a soft-plastic inlay (8) in an outer wall (13) of the second handle part (2) that includes the cavity (3).

41. (new) Handle according to claim 40, further comprising an actuating arm (14) which is associated with the actuating zone (8) of the second handle part (2) that includes the cavity (3), and which actuating arm acts on the spring tongue by way of an actuating cam.

42. (new) Handle according to claim 41, wherein the actuating arm (14) is formed by a U-shaped cut-free portion of a hard plastic sleeve which forms the second handle part (2) that includes the cavity (3), and the actuating arm (14) is located beneath the soft plastic inlay (8).

43. (new) Handle of a screwdriver, the handle comprising a first handle part, a second handle part, a spring, and a storage chamber for screwdriver bits or the like, the storage chamber being openable by axial displacement of the two handle parts (1, 2) with respect to one another, the first handle part (1) having a core (4), which is disposed in a cavity (3) in the second handle part (2) and has at least one latching means (5), which latching means (5), in a closed position of the storage chamber (6), interfaces with a mating catch (7) of the second handle part (2) that includes the cavity, wherein the two

handle parts (1, 2) are spring-loaded with respect to one another in such a manner that, after a latching has been cancelled, the two handle parts are moved apart by the spring, until they reach an open position, preferably only a partially open position.

44. (new) Handle according to claim 43, wherein the spring is a compression spring supported against the base (3') of the cavity (3) and against the end side of the core (4).

45. (new) Handle according to claim 43, wherein the two handle parts (1, 2) are latched in the fully open position, with an actuating cam (15) of an actuating arm (14) located in front of a latching cam (18) which can be overcome by the application of an axial force.

46. (new) Handle according to claim 43, wherein the first handle part (1), which includes the core (4), receives a blade or an exchangeable shank, and wherein the second handle part (2), which includes the cavity (3), forms a handle cup (21).

47. (new) Handle according to claim 43, wherein the spring is a compression spring (16), and is stressed in a closed position of the handle parts.